IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of predicting sudden cardiac death comprising:

determining intra-cardiac impedance;

deriving at least one physiologic cardiac parameter from the determined impedance, the physiological cardiac parameter comprising an ejection fraction;

generating trended data by trending the derived physiologic cardiac parameter over spaced time intervals; and

predicting the onset of a sudden cardiac death episode using the trended data.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the predicting comprises the steps of:

comparing trends of the at least one physiologic cardiac parameter; and

detecting one or more differences between the trends.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A method of predicting sudden cardiac death comprising:

determining intra-cardiac impedance;

deriving at least one physiologic cardiac parameter from the determined impedance, wherein the deriving comprises:

deriving the at least one physiologic cardiac parameter when a patient is at rest; and

deriving the at least one physiologic cardiac parameter when the patient is not at rest;

detecting a difference between the at least one physiologic cardiac parameter when the patient is at rest and the at least one physiologic cardiac parameter when the patient is not at rest;

trending the derived at least one physiologic cardiac parameter over spaced time intervals; and

predicting the onset of a sudden cardiac death episode using the difference.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the determining intra-cardiac impedance comprises measuring intra-cardiac impedance with an implanted device by applying a current between two electrodes of the device and measuring a resulting voltage that is used to calculate the intra-cardiac impedance.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for predicting sudden cardiac death episode, comprising:

a measuring device that measures intra-cardiac impedance;

a derivation module that derives a physiologic cardiac parameter from the measured impedance, the derived physiologic cardiac parameter comprising an ejection fraction; [[and]]

a trending module that trends the derived parameter over spaced time intervals to create trend data[[.]]; and

an analyzing module that analyzes the trend data to predict the onset of a sudden cardiac death episode.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[9]] 8 comprising comparing trends and detecting a difference between the trends.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8 further comprising a reporting module that reports the trend data to an outside source.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the reporting module reports trend data that predicts onset of a sudden cardiac death episode.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the derivation module and the trending module are packaged with an implantable measuring device.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the package is capable of being implanted in a human body.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8 further comprising an external device for storing the trend data.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the physiologic cardiac parameter correlates to sympathetic and parasympathetic activity.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the system downloads the trend data to a separately located storage device.

19. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the implanted device measures intracardiac impedance by applying a current between two electrodes and measuring a resulting voltage that is used to calculate the cardiac impedance.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the electrodes are part of at least one unipolar lead and a remote device.

21. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the electrodes are part of at least one bipolar lead.

22. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the electrodes are part of at least one unipolar lead and a bipolar lead.

23. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the electrodes are part of at least one bipolar lead and a remote device.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of trending a cardiac parameter, comprising:

measuring an intra-cardiac impedance;

deriving a physiologic cardiac parameter using the measured impedance; and

generating trend data by trending the derived parameter over time; and

monitoring, using the trend data, at least one of a drug regimen, a progress of a congestive heart failure disease condition, and an occurrence of a myocardial infarction.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the measuring comprises applying a current to a lead positioned within the heart, determining a voltage as a result of the applied current, and calculating an impedance based on the voltage.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the impedance is measured at spaced time intervals.

27. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the physiologic cardiac parameter represents sympathetic nervous activity.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein tracking predetermined physiological indicators comprises predicting a sudden cardiac death episode using ejection fraction trend data.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring a drug regimen.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the monitoring comprises detecting the occurrence of a myocardial infarction.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring progress of congestive heart failure.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the deriving comprises calculating the parameter using the measured impedance and storing one or more calculated impedance values into an array.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the trending comprises comparing parameter values stored in the array.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 comprising generating a signal when the trending data indicates that a threshold value for the predetermined physiological indicator has been met.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 comprising transmitting the trend data using a communications system.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 comprising transmitting the trend data to a patient management system.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the measuring, deriving, and trending are completed by a unitary implanted device.

39. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for the method recited in claim 24.

40. (Original) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave readable by a computing system and encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer program of instructions for executing a computer program performing the method recited in claim 24.

41. (Previously Presented) A device for trending a physiological cardiac parameter, comprising:

an impedance module that measures an intra-cardiac impedance at spaced time intervals;

a parameter module that calculates cardiac parameter values using the measured impedance;

a trending module that generates trend data using the calculated parameter values for monitoring at least one of a drug regimen, a progress of congestive heart failure, and whether a myocardial infarction has occurred.

42. (Original) The device of claim 41 wherein the parameter values represent a parameter selected from a group consisting of stroke volume, ejection fraction and pre-ejection period.

43. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 42 wherein the trending data is used to predict a sudden cardiac death episode and the parameter is an ejection fraction.

44. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 41 further comprising an analyzing module that analyzes trend data to track one or more predetermined physiological indicators.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 44 wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring progress of congestive heart failure.

47. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 44 wherein the monitoring comprises determining if a myocardial infarction has occurred.

48. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 44 wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring effects of a drug regimen on the patient.

49. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 44 wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring changes in sympathetic tone.